

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A silica or silicate, having the following physicochemical characteristics:

BET surface area	from 50 to 700 m <sup>2</sup> /g
DBP absorption	from 100 to 450 g/100 g
Choline chloride absorption	from 150 to 400 g/100 g (75% absorption by weight aqueous solution)
CTAB surface area	from 50 to 350 m <sup>2</sup> /g
DBP/choline chloride absorption	less than 1.07.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~silica or~~ silicate of ~~claim 4~~ claim 8, comprising between 0.01 and 26% by weight based on total weight of an electrolyte.

3. (Withdrawn) The silica or silicate of claim 1, comprising between 1 and 50% by weight based on total weight of at least one metal ion selected from the group consisting of Al, Mg, Ca, Ti, Zr, Fe and mixtures thereof.

4. (Original) The silica or silicate of Claim 1, having a modified Sears number of from at least 20 to 45.

5. (Original) The silica or silicate of Claim 1, having a BET surface area of 180-210 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a DBP adsorption of 280-450 g/100g, and a CTAB surface area of 130-200 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

6. (Original) The silica or silicate of Claim 1, that is a silica.

7. (Original) The silica or silicate of Claim 5, that is a silica.

8. (Withdrawn) The silica or silicate of Claim 1, that is a silicate.
9. (Withdrawn) The silica or silicate of Claim 5, that is a silicate.
10. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing precipitated silica or silicate, comprising
  - simultaneously metering into an aqueous silicate solution more aqueous silicate solution and a Lewis and/or Brønsted acid to provide a mixture,
  - acidifying the mixture to a pH of 7-3.0 to provide an acidified mixture
  - optionally filtering the acidified mixture to obtain a filtered precipitated silica or silicate,
  - optionally drying the filtered precipitated silica or silicate,

wherein the metered addition of the aqueous silicate solution and the Lewis and/or Brønsted acid is carried out while maintaining a constant alkali number in the mixture of at least 1.
11. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 10 wherein the alkali number is at least 15.
12. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 10, further comprising the addition of an electrolyte prior to or during the simultaneous addition of aqueous silicate solution and Lewis and/or Brønsted acid.

13. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 10, wherein at least one ion selected from the group consisting of Al, Ti, Zr, Fe, Mg, Ca and mixtures thereof are added prior to or during the simultaneous addition of aqueous silicate solution and Lewis and/or Brønsted acid.

14. (Withdrawn) A method comprising contacting the precipitated silica or silicate of claim 1 with a feed additive, a chemical intermediate, or a laundry detergent component.

15. (Withdrawn) A method comprising contacting the precipitated silica or silicate of claim 1 with formic acid, propionic acid, lactic acid, phosphoric acid, choline chloride solution, a plant extract, a melamine resin, a coatings additive, a fragrance, or a detergent.

16. (Withdrawn) An elastomer, plastic, battery separator, toothpaste, catalyst support or flocculation assistant comprising the precipitated silica or silicate of Claim 1.

17. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing precipitated silica or silicate, comprising:  
-simultaneously metering into a vessel an aqueous silicate solution and a Lewis and/or Brønsted acid to provide a mixture,  
-acidifying the mixture to a pH of 7-3 to provide an acidified mixture,  
-optionally filtering the acidified mixture to obtain a filtered precipitated silica or silicate,  
optionally drying the filtered precipitated silica or silicate,  
wherein the metered addition of the aqueous silicate solution and the Lewis and/or Brønsted acid is carried out while maintaining a constant alkali number in the mixture of at least 1.

18. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 17 wherein the alkali number is at least 15.

19. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 17, further comprising the addition of an electrolyte prior to or during the simultaneous addition of aqueous silicate solution and Lewis and/or Brønsted acid.

20. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 17, wherein at least one ion selected from the group consisting of Al Ti Zr Fe Mg Ca and mixtures thereof are added prior to or during the simultaneous addition of aqueous silicate solution and Lewis and/or Brønsted acid.

21. (New) The silicate of claim 9, comprising between 0.01 and 26% by weight based on total weight of an electrolyte.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 2 has been amended.

Claim 21 has been added.

The amendment of Claim 2 is supported by Claims 1, 2, and 8 as originally filed, as well as the originally filed specification (see, for example, page 3). New Claim 21 is supported by Claims 1, 2, and 9 as originally filed, as well as the originally filed specification (see, for example, page 3).

No new matter has been added by the present amendment.